

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the second paragraph of page 2 as follows:

Using microstrip technology for narrow bandpass filter design, the spacing between the resonators usually determines the amount of coupling between the resonators. As the spacing increases, the coupling decreases and, therefore, the bandwidth becomes narrower. For very-narrow band filters, the spacing between resonators can be quite substantial. Techniques have been developed in the prior art to reduce the required spacing. For example, in a lumped element type resonator environment (see Zhang, et al. U.S., Patent Application 08/706,974, which issued on August 20, 2002 as U.S. Patent No. 6,438,394, and Ye, U.S. Patent Application 09/699,783, Petition to Revive Granted September 29, 2006); and in a distributed element type resonator environment (see Tsuzuki, et. al., U.S. Provisional Application 60/298,339), all assigned to the assignee of the current invention. These techniques have been shown to be successful in effectively reducing the spacing between resonators for very-narrow band filters in the respective environments. However, the techniques may not be effective (using the same structure), when the required bandwidth of the filter becomes large. Where a broader bandwidth is desired, closer spacing between resonators is required. In some cases, the spacing may become too small from manufacturability point of view, i.e., lithography, sensitivity, yield, etc.

Please amend the first paragraph of page 4 as follows:

According to a further aspect of the invention, there is provided one or more of the following additional features in accordance with the preceding paragraph: wherein the first and second resonator devices are constructed in an HTS microstrip configuration; wherein the first end is arranged and configured to provide a substantially larger interface to the second resonator than the second end; further comprising a coupling strip which couples the second end to the second resonator; and/or wherein the micro-strip topology includes a dielectric substrate of either MgO, LaAlO₃, Al₂O₃, Al₂O₃, or YSZ.

Please amend the last paragraph of page 4 (which continues on page 5) as follows:

In an additional aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of controlling coupling in an electric signal filter, having a first and second resonator and a coupling strip, comprising the steps of: determining the primary coupling between the first and second resonators based on the desired distance between the first and second resonators; determining the desired secondary coupling in order to arrive at the total desired coupling between the first and second resonators; and determining the distances and lengths of the coupling strip from the first and second resonators to achieve the determined secondary coupling $F2$, where $F2$ is a function of $S2a$, $S2b$, $L2a$ and $L2b$, and $S2a$ is defined as the distance between the coupling strip and the first resonator, $L2a$ is the length of the coupling strip which lies adjacent the first resonator, $S2b$ is the distance between the coupling strip and the second resonator, and $L2b$ is the length of the coupling strip which lies adjacent the second resonator, the primary coupling $F1$, where $F1$ is a function of $S1$, and $S1$ is defined as the distance between the first resonator and the second resonator, wherein the total coupling between the first resonator and the second resonator, F , is defined by:

$$F = F1(S1) + F2(S2a, S2b, L2a, L2b).$$

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 12 as follows:

These and other advantages and features which characterize the present invention are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed hereto and forming a further part hereof. However, for a better understanding of the invention, the advantages and objects attained by its use, reference should be made to the drawings which form a further part hereof, and to the accompanying descriptive matter, in which there is illustrated and described preferred embodiments of the present invention.

Please amend the last paragraph of page 6 (which continues on page 7) as follows:

Turning now to Figure 3, a schematic diagram of two adjacent resonators are illustrated, the resonators being arranged and configured in accordance with the principles of the present

invention. The coupling between the first resonator 10 and the second resonator 11 is comprised of two parts. The first part of the coupling, controlled by gap size ~~$S1$~~ $S1$, is the primary coupling. The second part of the coupling, controlled by both gap size $S2$ and length L , is the secondary coupling. The total coupling between the two resonators is the combination of the first and second parts of the couplings. However, adjusting $S1$ while keeping $S2$ and L fixed directly affects the resonator length, i.e., the resonating frequency. And the same applies to adjusting $S2$ and L .